

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

RODERICK L. BREMBY, SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Tapia:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT September 28, 2005

Cecilia Tapia Director, Superfund Division, EPA Region VII 901 North 5th Street Kansas City, Kansas 66101

RE: United Zinc Site, Iola, Allen County, Kansas KDHE I.D. # C3-001-71726

The Kansas of Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has completed a Preliminary Removal Site Evaluation (PRE) of the United Zinc#1 site in Iola, Allen County, Kansas. The site is centered around the former United Zinc #1 smelter works. After several investigations, KDHE has identified levels of heavy metals, especially lead, but including arsenic. zinc, and cadmium, in multiple residential yards as well as a portion of the McKinley Elementary School playground. KDHE recommends that a time-critical removal action be conducted at the site consistent with § 300 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and hereby refers this site to EPA. The "Request for Federal Action" form is also enclosed. KDHE also requests the opportunity to conduct the post-removal site assessment. If you have any additional questions relative to the United Zinc site, please feel free to contact Rick Bean at (785) 296-1675.

Sincerely,

Gary Blackburn Bureau Manager

Bureau of Environmental Remediation

rlb/Attachments

c: Rick Bean -> Randy Brown -> Bridget Wilson Paul Roemerman, EPA/EFLR Leo Henning, KDHE

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DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT Bureau of Environmental Remediation CURTIS STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1000 SW JACKSON ST., STE. 410, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1367

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ACTION

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) ("Requesting Agency") requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 ("EPA") to conduct a response action at the facility located at:

<u>United Zinc #1 Site, including McKinley Elementary School and multiple</u> <u>residential properties (see report)</u>

Street Address, Parcel Number or Other Property Description: Centered at Highway 54 and Kansas Drive, Iola, Kansas 66749

By making this Request, the Requesting Agency recognizes that EPA, or any other federal agency acting in conjunction with or on behalf of EPA, may use its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 9601, et seq., the National Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 C.F.R. Part 300, or any other federal statute, regulation or response program, to respond to and recover costs incurred in response to releases to threats of releases of pollutants and contaminants as deemed necessary in EPA's sole discretion to abate an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare or the environment at the location stated above. By making this Request, the Requesting Agency waives notice as otherwise required by Section 128(b)(1)(D) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9628(b)(1)(D). The signatory of this request is authorized to make this request on behalf of the State.

Signature

Gary Blackburn, Bureau Manager, BER

Name/Title

Date